

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW WOOD-HEWERS OF THE GENUS *DENDROPLEX* FROM VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE AND W. H. PHELPS.

Detailed examination of extensive series of *Dendrocolaptes* of the genus *Dendroplex* that have been obtained recently for the Phelps collection from Venezuela, and for the U. S. National Museum from Colombia, indicate two unrecognized forms related to *picrostris*. Their recognition has come during a study of all of the more northern forms of the genus, by which the specific unity of *picrostris* and *picus* has been definitely established through specimens that show graduated stages in intergradation along the lower Río Orinoco between Caicara, Bolívar and Barrancas, Monagas.¹ All forms of these two groups, therefor, are placed under *picus* as the older of the two names.

Descriptions of the two additional subspecies here recognized follow:

***Dendroplex picus choica* subsp. nov.**

Characters.—Similar to *Dendroplex picus picrostris*² but extent of light (Colombia).

color of foreneck restricted distally so that it barely reaches the upper breast; dark markings on sides of head behind the eye averaging heavier, more extensive; light markings on crown and hindneck smaller; light superciliary narrower; slightly smaller.

Description.—Type, Phelps Collection No. 29,106, male adult, in breeding condition, from Borburata, Puerto Cabello, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela, collected May 6, 1945, by W. H. Phelps, Jr. Crown and hindneck sepia, the anterior feathers spotted with pinkish buff, the light spots edged with fuscous black; forehead mainly pinkish buff with little of the darker color; on the posterior part of the crown the spots smaller,

¹ See also Zimmer, Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 753, November 10, 1934, pp. 16-17.

² *Dendroplex picrostris* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., vol. 10, March, 1847, p. 76 (Río hacha,

more elongated with little of the dark margin, becoming larger but still elongate on hindneck, and also becoming lighter, cartridge buff, and extending as elongated light streaks, bordered narrowly with fuscous black, on to upper back; rest of upper surface, including wings and tail, russet, slightly lighter on back and rump; sides of head, including superciliary, lighter than cartridge buff; an indistinct line of sepia behind eye; lores pinkish buff to cartridge buff; sides of neck cartridge buff to white, margined with fuscous black; throat and foreneck cartridge buff to white, this color extending to upper breast, where it is margined with fuscous black in distinct squamations, which become indistinct anteriorly, and are very faintly indicated to middle of foreneck; breast tawny-olive lined with light cartridge-buff, margined faintly with fuscous, the light streaks becoming narrower and disappearing toward the lower breast; sides, flanks, and abdomen sayal brown; under tail-coverts snuff brown with somewhat brighter, narrow shaft streaks; under wing-coverts tawny, with the bend of the wing cinnamon; tips of outer primaries clove brown. Bill hair brown, with gonys, mandibular rami, and sides of maxillae near center pale olive-buff; tarsus and toes chaetura black (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (9 specimens), wing 92.0–98.5 (95.7), tail 69.8–81.7 (76.4), culmen from base 27.5–32.6 (29.1), tarsus 21.0–23.0 (21.8) mm.

Females (8 specimens), wing 87.1–98.4 (93.1), tail 70.3–79.5 (76.7), culmen from base 26.9–31.5 (29.3)³, tarsus 21.0–22.3 (21.7) mm.

Type, male, wing 96.8, tail 80.1, culmen from base 29.0, tarsus 21.0 mm.

Range.—Northern Venezuela, from extreme eastern Falcón (Tucacas) eastward, north of the Cordillera de la Costa, through Carabobo (Urama, Puerto Cabello) Distrito Federal (Los Caracas, Río San Julián) and Miranda (Carenero).

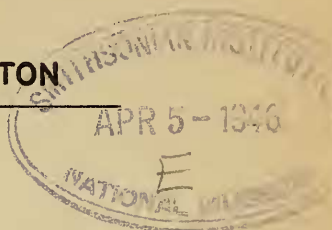
Remarks.—This form is quite distinct from typical *picrostris* in the restriction of the light markings on the upper breast, and in the increase in the darker markings on the side of the head and neck. The smaller size is an average character that is evident in series. The increase in dark markings on the side of the head is a slight resemblance to the *picus* group of subspecies from which, however, *choica* is completely separated by the broad range of *phalara*.

Dendroplex picus dugandi subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Dendroplex picus picrostris* but with feathers of upper breast, lower foreneck, and sides of neck edged with fuscous black, so that the light color is definitely restricted; light superciliary narrower and not extending so far behind the eye; light markings on upper back less extensive; light spotting on crown less extensive, especially on the forehead.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum No. 373,327, male adult, from Puerto Sagoc, La Gloria, Magdalena, Colombia, collected May 24,

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A NEW NAME FOR THE DESERT RACE OF THE BAT,
MYOTIS CALIFORNICUS.

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Tate (1941, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull., vol. 78, p. 547) reduced the genus *Chrysopteron* Jentink to a subgenus of *Myotis*, bringing *Kerivoula pallida* Blyth into the genus *Myotis*. Dobson (1876, Monogr. Asiatic Chiroptera) considered *K. pallida* a synonym of *Vespertilio formosa* (*Myotis formosus*) Hodgson. Tate (ibid.) has restored it as a full species, *Myotis pallidus*. *Myotis pallidus* (Blyth), named from central India in 1863, antedates *Myotis californicus pallidus* Stephens by 37 years. No name seems to be available for the desert race of *Myotis californicus*, currently known as *pallidus*. Therefore this race may be known as:

Myotis californicus stephensi new name

Myotis californicus pallidus Stephens, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 13, p. 153, June 13, 1900 (preoccupied).

Type.—Adult female, skin and skull number 16657, Mus. Vert. Zool., obtained by Frank Stephens at Vallecito, San Diego County, California, on March 29, 1912; original number 3493.

Diagnosis.—Total length 75-85 mm.; ear short, reaching slightly past nose when laid forward; tragus slim, straight; foot small, about 6 mm.; calcar keeled; forehead abruptly rising.

Comparisons.—Paler and less reddish than *Myotis californicus californicus* and *Myotis californicus caurinus*. Upper parts buffy, yellowish, or whitish. The small foot, keeled calcar, and straight tragus separate it from all bats that occur within its range, save *Myotis subulatus*. From the latter it may be separated by the abruptly rising forehead.

Range.—The interior desert area of the southwestern United States.

